



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 703

January Session, 2007

Substitute House Bill No. 6949

House of Representatives, May 2, 2007

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. MERRILL of the 54th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING A SERVICE BONUS FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD ON ACTIVE SERVICE WITH THE ARMED FORCES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 27-61a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2007*):

3 (a) As used in this section, "eligible member or veteran" means a
4 member or former member of the Connecticut National Guard who (1)
5 is or was called to active service on or after September 11, 2001, (2) is or
6 was in such active service for at least ninety consecutive days, [(3)
7 during such active service, is or was deployed to an area designated as
8 a combat zone by the President of the United States, and (4)] and (3) if
9 discharged, is or was honorably discharged or discharged for injuries
10 sustained in the line of duty.

11 (b) (1) On and after July 1, 2005, the Adjutant General shall pay each
12 eligible member or veteran the amount of fifty dollars for each month

13 or major part thereof of active service by such eligible member or
 14 veteran on or after September 11, 2001. [The] On and before June 30,
 15 2007, the maximum payment to any eligible member or veteran shall
 16 not exceed five hundred dollars. [No payment shall be made to any
 17 eligible member or veteran who makes application for such payment
 18 later than three years after the date of the cessation of such operations
 19 in which such member or veteran served.]

20 (2) On and after July 1, 2007, the maximum payment to any eligible
 21 member or veteran under this subsection shall not exceed five hundred
 22 dollars, except that such maximum payment shall not exceed one
 23 thousand two hundred dollars if, during such active service, such
 24 eligible member or veteran is or was deployed to an area designated as
 25 a combat zone by the President of the United States.

26 (3) No payment shall be made under this subsection to any eligible
 27 member or veteran who makes application for such payment later than
 28 three years after the date of the cessation of such operations in which
 29 such member or veteran served.

30 (c) The Adjutant General, in consultation with the Commissioner of
 31 Veterans' Affairs, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the
 32 provisions of chapter 54, to implement the provisions of this section.
 33 Such regulations shall include procedures for verification of eligibility
 34 of an eligible member or veteran and for the application for and
 35 payment of the amounts specified in this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	July 1, 2007	27-61a
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VA *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*

APP

APP *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 08 \$	FY 09 \$
Military Dept.	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill increases the amount of bonus money members of the Armed Forces serving in an area designated to be a combat zone can receive, from \$500 to \$1,200. It is projected, in FY 07, that the Military Department will expend \$275,000 on veteran bonuses. Of the \$860,700 the Military Department carried forward into FY 07, \$821,400 currently remains in the Veteran's Service Bonuses account. It is anticipated that there will be a remaining balance of \$546,400 to be carried forward to FY 08. Additionally, the \$500,000 appropriated in FY 07 will remain unspent to be carried forward to FY 08. The total amount to be carried forward to FY 08 is estimated to be \$1.05 million. It is anticipated that the carryforward funds will be sufficient to support the provisions in the bill, and no additional funds will be required.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of applications received and payments remitted.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 6949*****AN ACT CONCERNING A SERVICE BONUS FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD ON ACTIVE SERVICE WITH THE ARMED FORCES.*****SUMMARY:**

The bill increases service bonus payments to Connecticut National Guard members who serve in combat zones and establishes bonuses for guard members' active service outside of a combat zone.

Under current law, current or former guard members called to active service on or after September 11, 2001 are entitled to a service bonus. The bonus is \$50 for each month of active service or major part thereof, up to \$500 for such members who (1) are or were in active service for at least 90 consecutive days; (2) while in such service, are or were deployed in a combat zone designated by the president; and (3) if discharged, were honorably discharged or discharged because of a line-of-duty injury.

Beginning July 1, 2007, this bill increases the maximum bonus for these guard members to \$1,200. It establishes a \$500 maximum bonus for otherwise qualified current or former guard members whose active service was not in a combat zone.

By law and the bill, applicants have three years from the end of the operation in which they served to submit bonus requests.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2007

COMMITTEE ACTION

Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference
Yea 9 Nay 0 (03/01/2007)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 48 Nay 0 (04/19/2007)